SUPERMAN
ACTION COMICS
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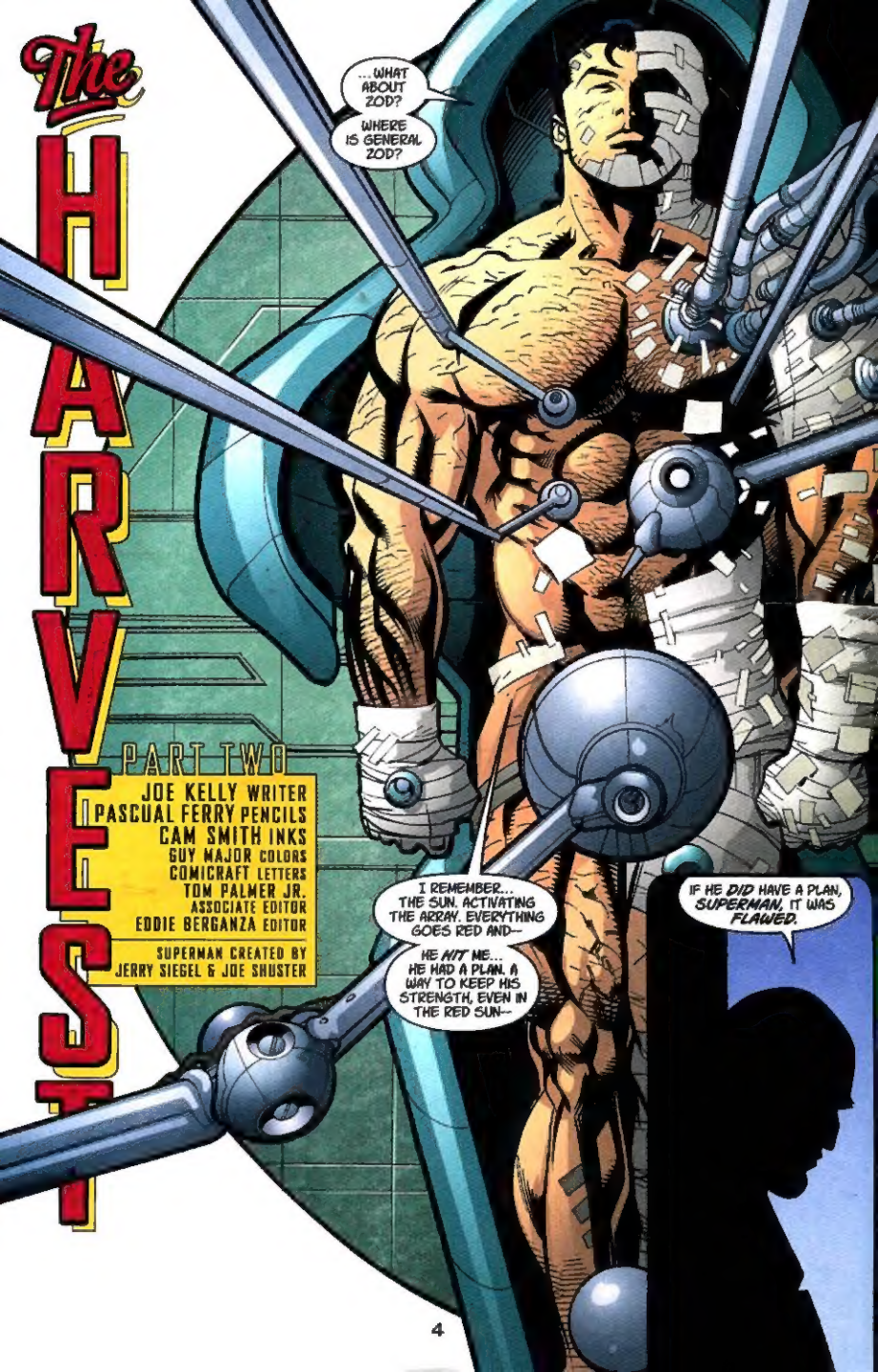
:KAFF:
I AM SO READY FOR THIS TO BE A DREAM...
IT'S LIT LIKE A DREAM... THROW IN A DANCING DWARF... MAYBE A CLOWN WITH A KNIFE...
:K'OFF: MATH TEST SANS PANTALOONS...
DID ANYONE EVER TELL YOU FELLAS THAT YOU DON'T GET INTO HEAVEN IF YOU KILL SUPERBOY?
NAH, THEY SAID THAT KNIGHTMARE GETS A SHONUFF REP IF WE DO.
"WAIT UNTIL THE SUN SHOWS RED AND THE BOY OF STEEL REARS UP HIS HEAD. LOP IT OFF, HIS BODY BREAK, AND FAME IN THE FUTURE YOU WILL TAKE."

THE FUTURESMITHS CAN'T RAP, BUT THEY KNOW HOW TO MAKE SERIOUS METAL.
METAL'S DEAD, DOG. EVEN WHITE BOYS KNOW THAT.
SCHTINGG
HNNNGH!
IT'S ALL ABOUT STREET HOP NOW.
YOU ALL RIGHT?
ONLY IF I'M NOT DREAMING NOW, AND YOU ARE GIVING ME YOUR PHONE NUMBER.
LIKE I NEED THAT HASSLE. WHAT HAPPENED? I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPER-SHORTY.
SUPERBOY, AND I WAS UNTIL THE SUN--
HEY, WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
MY NAME'S TRACI THIRTEEN. I'M A FRIEND TO THE BIG MAN. CAME TO WATCH HIS BACK...
...BUT I THINK I'M TOO LATE.

IT WORKED.
I FIGURE THAT'S WHAT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW FIRST.
THE VICTIMS OF THE METASENE CONTAGION BEGAN REVERTING TO NORMAL WITHIN HOURS OF THE SOLAR WAVELENGTH SHIFT FROM YELLOW TO RED.
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS, AND ALL THE FREAKS AND WANNABES ARE ALL DEPOWERED. YOU SAVED MILLIONS OF LIVES.
BUT...?
THIS CAN WAIT, IF YOU NEED TO REST. THE INJURIES YOU SUFFERED UPON REENTRY--
--THE YELLOW SUN SIMULATOR LAMPS ARE ALL THAT KEPT YOU ALIVE--
NO. HEAD'S STILL CLOUDY... BUT I CAN MANAGE. PLEASE, AGENT CHASE... I NEED TO KNOW.
THERE WAS A COMPLICATION.
WE THOUGHT THAT THE SOLAR TRIGGER WAS ENGINEERED ONLY TO ATTACH TO LATENT METAGENES.
WE WERE WRONG. IT AFFECTED ALL METAGENES. WHEN YOU TURNED THE SUN RED, YOU NOT ONLY SHUT DOWN THE NEW METAS... BUT THE OLD ONES AS WELL.
HEROES... VILLAINS... IF THEY WERE IN AMERICA WHEN THE CONTAGION WAS RELEASED... THEY'RE POWERLESS NOW.
ONE QUESTION...


The
HARVEST
PART TWO
JOE KELLY WRITER
PASCUAL FERRY PENCILS
CAM SMITH INKS
GUY MAJOR COLORS
COMICRAFT LETTERS
TOM PALMER JR. ASSOCIATE EDITOR
EDDIE BERGANZA EDITOR
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
...WHAT ABOUT ZOD?
WHERE IS GENERAL ZOD?
I REMEMBER... THE SUN. ACTIVATING THE ARRAY. EVERYTHING GOES RED AND--
HE HIT ME... HE HAD A PLAN. A WAY TO KEEP HIS STRENGTH, EVEN IN THE RED SUN--
IF HE DID HAVE A PLAN, SUPERMAN, IT WAS FLAWED.

ONLY ONE MAN RETURNED FROM THE SUN. YOU.
HE'S DEAD, LUTHOR?
WE DON'T KNOW. SATELLITES HAVE DETECTED HIS BODY FLOATING AT THE PERIMETER OF THE SOLAR ARRAY, BUT WE CAN'T CONFIRM HIS CONDITION. THAT ARMOR COULD BE KEEPING HIM STABLE.
YOU'RE THE ONLY TWO WHO COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE SURE.
WE MUST -- OWW! WHAT IS THAT--?
ZZZZZ
PART OF YOUR TREATMENT, SUPERMAN. WE'VE SPENT MORE ON YOU IN THE LAST THREE DAYS THAN WE DID REBUILDING THE PENTAGON LAST YEAR.
A NEW PROBLEM HAS ARISEN IN THE WAKE OF WHAT WE'VE DONE. AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM...
WHAT WAS...? I FEEL WEIRD.
VERTIGO IS A SIDE EFFECT OF YOUR MEDICINE. YOU'LL BE FINE. JUST TRY TO FOCUS ON MY VOICE.
THE VOICE OF YOUR PRESIDENT...
YES, LUTH--
YES... MISTER PRESIDENT. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
AMERICA NEEDS YOU, SON. I WANT YOU TO HELP ME HELP OUR PEOPLE. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?
CAN YOU SERVE YOUR PRESIDENT AND HELP HIM ELIMINATE THE POKOLISTAN PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL?

DAMN NOT THE MEN BEFORE YOU, PEOPLE OF PRAGUE!
DAMN THE WORLD THAT BETRAYED US AND DROVE US DOWN THE PATH OF WAR!
GENERAL ZOD HAS BEEN BETRAYED!
THE PACT OF PEACE IS ENDED, AND THE MIGHT OF POKOLISTAN HAS BEEN SET LOOSE! IN HIS NAME...
...THE WORLD WILL KNEEL!
SOMETHING COMES, FAORA.
SHHHHHHHH
YOU'D BETTER GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT, MISS--

WHAMMM
-- ABOUT WHO BETRAYED WHOM!
ZOD SET THIS ENTIRE CRISIS IN MOTION! I KNOW HE FED TECHNOLOGY TO THE BIALYA TERRORISTS AND KILLED THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS!
I KNOW HE TRIED TO KILL ME IN THE LIGHT OF A RED SUN!
AND I KNOW, BY GOD--
--HE, AND HIS, WILL PAY FOR IT!
KRUNNNCH

FREEZE.
TREACHERY IS A VENGEFUL MISTRESS, LITTLE MANGOD.
YOU HAVE AWAKENED MORE THAN A "SLEEPING GIANT."
YOU HAVE UNLEASHED HELL!
NOT TODAY, I HAVEN'T!

I NEVER LIE.

NO.

EVEN WITHOUT THE LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL ZOD, THE POKOLISTAN ARMY POSES A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THE WORLD.
THEY ARE IN POSSESSION OF VAST DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITIES INCLUDING BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL...
...AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AS EVIDENCED BY BOTH THE METAGENE ATTACK AND TODAY'S ASSAULT ON PRAGUE.
EIGHT MULTI-MEGATON ATOMIC WARHEADS. EIGHT.
BY THE GRACE OF GOD ALONE WAS I ABLE TO COLLECT THE MISSILES AND DESTROY THEM BEFORE THEY REACHED THEIR MARK... BARELY.
MY POWERS DEPLETE RAPIDLY IN THE RED SUNLIGHT, DESPITE BOOSTS FROM THE YELLOW SUN GENERATORS.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL... I CANNOT TAKE THEM ON ALONE...
...SO IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I REQUEST ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION CONDEMNING POKOLISTAN--
-- AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF UNINHIBITED MILITARY FORCE AGAINST THEM.
THE PRESIDENT AND I HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THAT MY ROLE IN ORGANIZING AND EXECUTING THE ATTACK WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT.
WITH THE WORLD'S METAHUMAN RESERVES DECIMATED BY THE CONTAGION ATTACK, I BELIEVE IT WILL BE THE BEST WAY TO GUARANTEE A SWIFT VICTORY WITH MINIMAL LOSS OF LIFE.

"THE PENTAGON IS THE PUBLIC HOME OF THE MILITARY, WHICH, OBVIOUSLY, MAKES IT A TARGET.
"NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT THE RABBIT HOLE. EXCEPT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE IN COMPLETE ISOLATION AND FIVE OTHERS. "
YOU MAKE SIX. I TAKE IT YOU CAN KEEP A SECRET.
FROM HERE, YOU CAN CONDUCT ANY OPERATION UTILIZING ANY BRANCH OF OUR MILITARY ANYWHERE ON EARTH. TROOPS. EQUIPMENT.
THE NUKES.
DOES THIS FULFILL YOUR NEEDS?
I TOLD YOU I WOULD ONLY CONSENT TO LEADING THIS STRIKE IF I HAD COMPLETE ACCESS TO THE OPERATION AND ALL DECISION MAKING.
THERE CAN BE NO GAMES, MISTER PRESIDENT. NO MISTAKES.
"GAMES"?
AND HERE I THOUGHT WE'D TURNED A CORNER IN OUR "RELATIONSHIP."

THIS IS A NEW AGE BETWEEN US, ISN'T IT?
THE PRIMARY COMMAND CENTER IS THERE...
THERE, THE MISSILE OVERRIDES.
DESPITE WHAT HAS COME IN THE PAST... EVEN IN THE VERY RECENT PAST
LIKE YOUR ERASING MY KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR IDENTITY.
...
YES, I KNOW. I REMEMBER THAT I SUDDENLY POSSESSED THE MOST CRITICAL PIECE OF INFORMATION I EVER HAD IN MY POSSESSION.
AND I ADMIRE YOU FOR IT
IT SHOWS A STRENGTH OF CHARACTER I WASN'T SURE EXISTED.
I UNDERESTIMATED YOU. NEVER AGAIN.
PERHAPS WHEN THIS BUSINESS WITH ZOD'S PEOPLE IS OVER..
...YOU'LL BE PERSUADED TO TELL ME HOW YOU MANAGED TO PULL THAT OFF.
IN THE INTERESTS OF SERVING YOUR COUNTRY.

KLAKTAKT
POP
FFT
FFT
POP
POP
WHA--?
GYAAAAH
AAAAA!
POP
POP
POP
POP
HI--?
NO.
FAORA. IGNITION. I BEGIN.
DISPENSING NANOTRANSMITTERS. DOWNLOAD THE WORM.
NO!

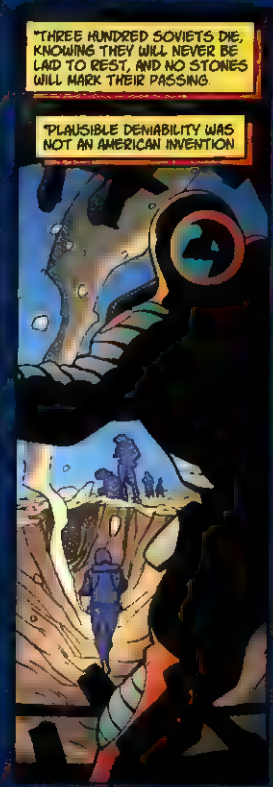
FWAKKT
SILENCE
--2ZT2 22KT 22KONTACT--
WE ARE IN CONTACT.
INITIATING DECODE RUNSETS. SUBVERTING COMMAND STRUCTURES. SECURITY PROTOCOLS.. UNLOCKED.
WE ARE IN, GENERAL...
ZOD.
YOU TWISTED SON OF A--
YOU HAVE ABSOLUTE DIGITAL CONTROL OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY OPERATIONS SYSTEM.
WOULD IT PLEASE YOU TO LAUNCH ANYTHING, GENERAL?
--YOU CANNOT DO THIS! YOU CANNOT--
NOT YET, FAORA.
AWAKEN THE SLEEPERS.

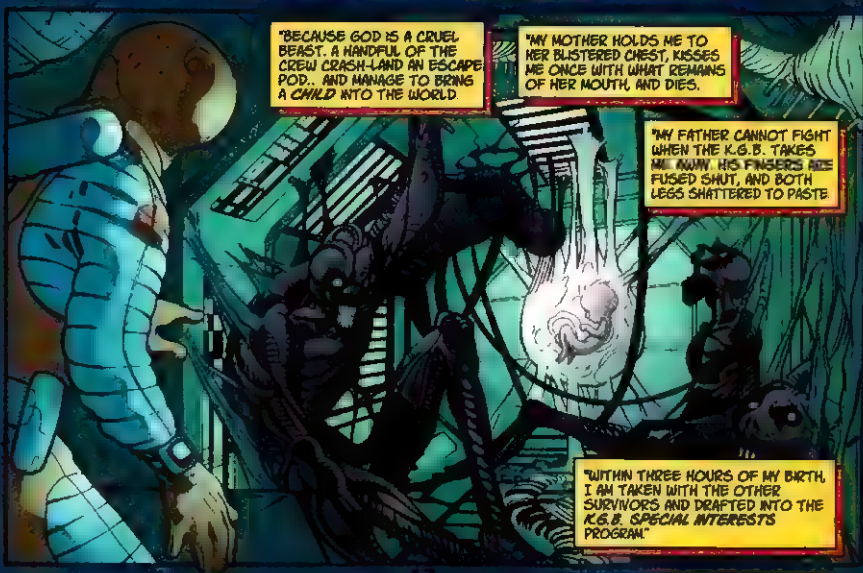
IT IS TIME FOR THE HARVEST.
IT PLEASES ME TO SHARE THIS MOMENT WITH YOU, MISTER PRESIDENT. OF ALL PEOPLE...
...YOU ARE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO APPRECIATE THE REALIZATION OF A LIFE'S WORK.
"WITHIN HOURS, SLEEPER CELLS OF THE KOKOLISTAN ARMY WILL AWAKEN AND INFILTRATE KEY TARGET SITES..
"WITHOUT THE HINDRANCE OF A UNITED STATES MILITARY STRUCTURE TO IMPEDE THEM.
"THEY HAVE BEEN IN PLACE SINCE THE IMPERIEX WAR, WELL BEFORE I EVER APPROACHED THE BIALYA MANIAC WITH HIS FINAL SOLUTION"
"THE METAGENE CONTAGION. THE WEAPON WITH WHICH I WOULD PARALYZE THE METAHUMAN COMMUNITY AND FORCE THE CONVERSION OF OUR SUN FROM YELLOW TO RED...
"NEVER LIFTING A FINGER.
"YOU WERE A PART OF MY DESIGN FROM THE DAY YOU ANNOUNCED YOUR RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY. I HOPE THAT MAKES YOU FEEL... SPECIAL.
"THAT WAS THE DAY I HAD FAORA CUT MY FACE ON THE GENETIC LEVEL... SO I'D RESEMBLE HIM.
"YOU COULDN'T RESIST AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERVERT THE KRYPTONIAN. YOUR SINGLE FLAW, BLINDING YOU TO ALL ELSE
"ESPECIALLY THE POSSIBILITY YOU WERE LETTING A SNAKE INTO YOUR GARDEN. THE UNITED STATES IS FINISHED. THE WORLD IS MINE..
"ALL POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF ONE MAN WE BOTH LOATHE ABOVE ALL OTHERS."
IT IS DONE, SUPERMAN. I WILL FULFILL MY PROMISE TO YOU AND REVEAL ALL...
IS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOUR MIND TO GRASP ALL-CONSUMING HATRED?

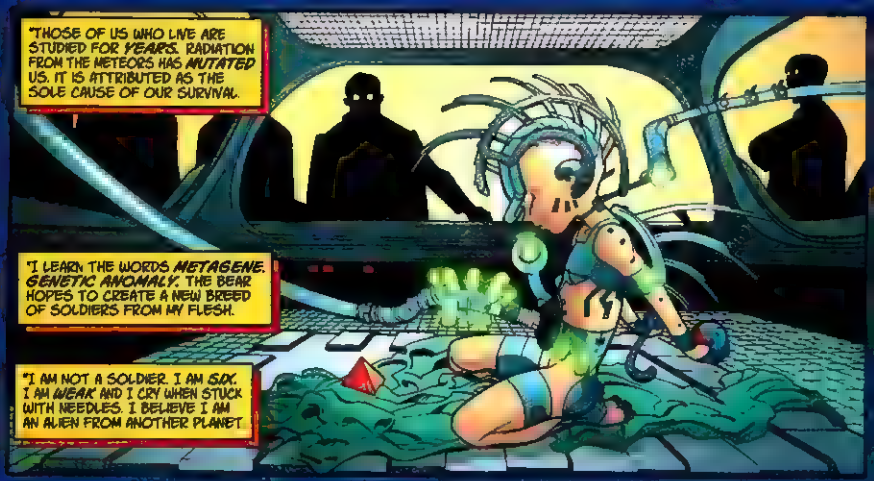
KRNNNCH
KNEW IT WAS A TRICK... SOMEHOW BUT I CHECKED YOUR CELL STRUCTURE..
YOU'RE ME
NO. I AM EVERYTHING YOU ARE NOT...
YOU MUST KNOW THAT BEFORE YOU DIE. YOU MUST KNOW EVERYTHING.
"THE COLD WAR BETWEEN THE BEAR AND THE EAGLE IS AT ITS APEX.
"BOTH SIDES HAVE TAKEN TO THE STARS IN HOPES OF ESTABLISHING A MILITARY ADVANTAGE OVER THE OTHER MISSILES. S.D.S. THE "STAR WARS" HAVE BEGUN.
"THE SOVIETS ARE WINNING. AN ORBITAL WEAPONS PLATFORM CALL THE GOD HAMMER HANGS ON THE PERIPHERY OF U.S. SATELLITES, TWO MONTHS FROM COMPLETION."

"COSMONAUTS PAULIN AND TOR AVRUSKIN ARE SCIENTISTS CONDUCTING NON-MILITARY EXPERIMENTS BEFORE THE STATION GOES OPERATIONAL. BRILLIANT, PEACEFUL SOULS WHOSE ONLY PASSIONS ARE FOR SCIENCE AND ONE ANOTHER.
"THEY DETEST THE GOVERNMENT'S FORCING THEM INTO A MILITARY OPERATION, AND CREATE LIFE IN DIRECT DEFIANCE OF THE DEATH GOD HAMMER REPRESENTS.

"IT IS NOT ENOUGH.
"A METEOR SHOWER. THE ROCKS--RADIOACTIVE, FESTERING WITH THE STUFF OF THE UNIVERSE--TRAVEL THROUGH A WARP IN TIME/SPACE, RENDERING THEM INVISIBLE UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE.

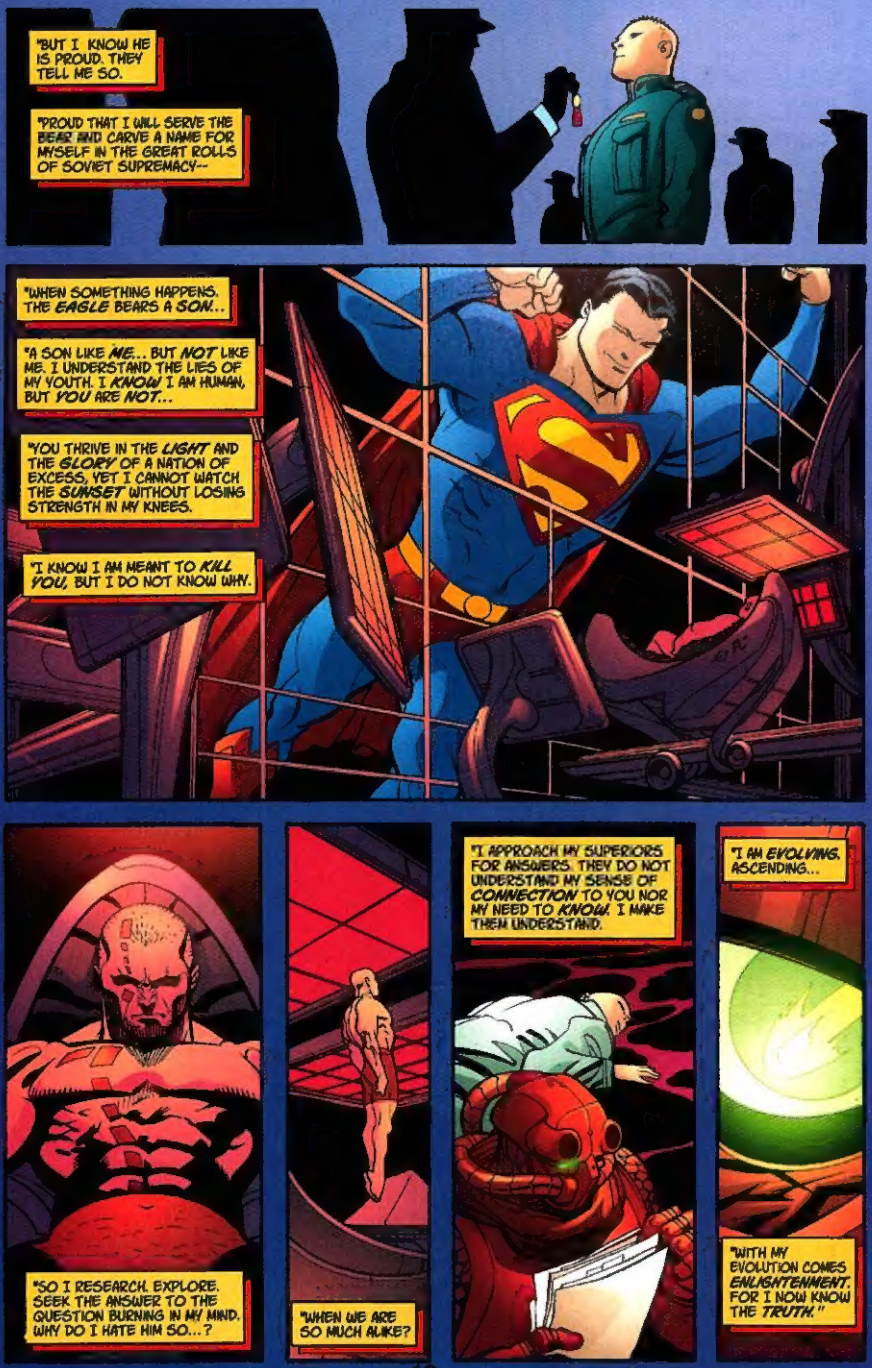

"THREE HUNDRED SOVIETS DIE, KNOWING THEY WILL NEVER BE LAID TO REST, AND NO STONES WILL MARK THEIR PASSING
"PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY WAS NOT AN AMERICAN INVENTION

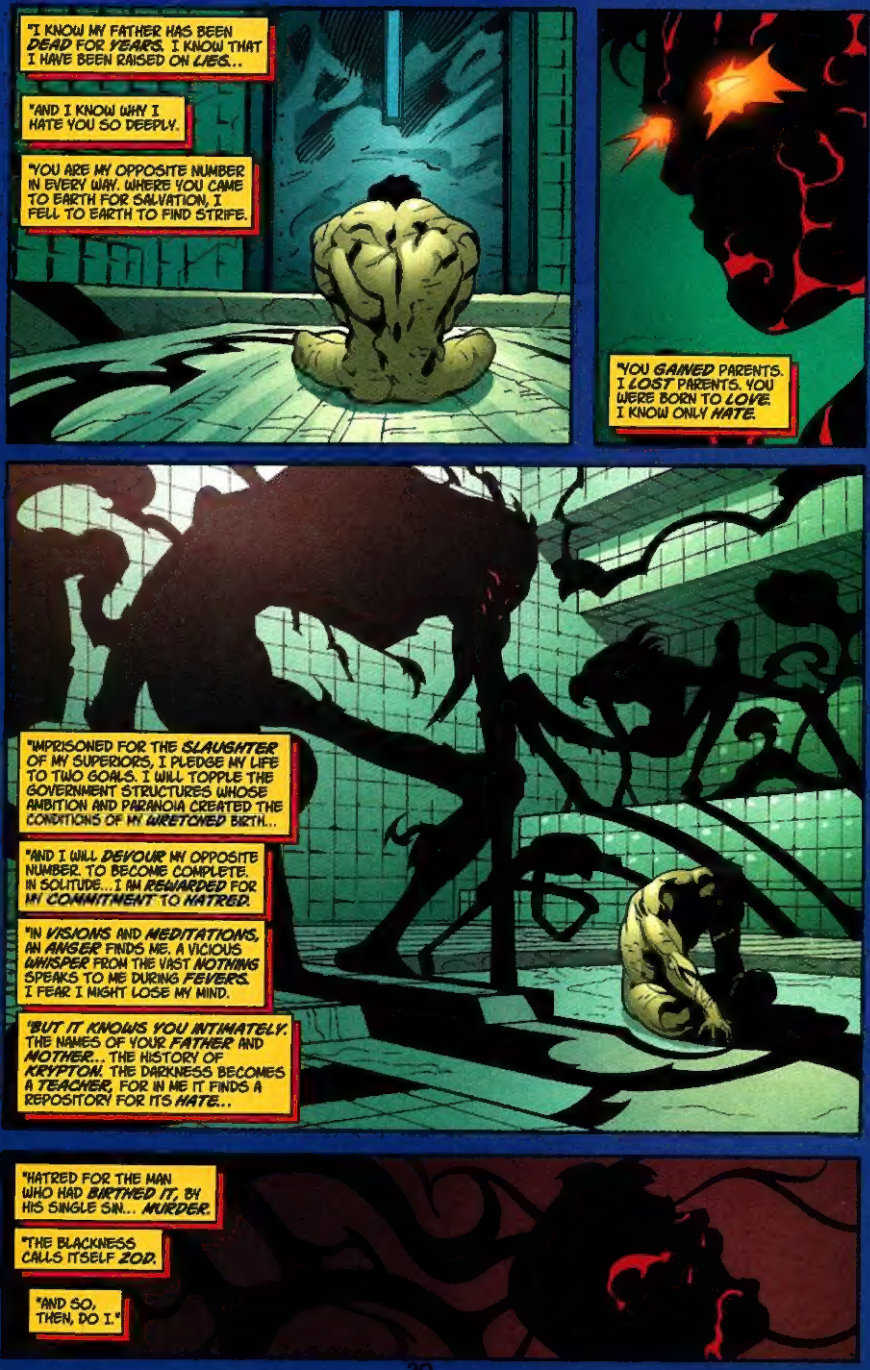

"BECAUSE GOD IS A CRUEL BEAST. A HANDFUL OF THE CREW CRASH-LAND AN ESCAPE POD.. AND MANAGE TO BRING A CHILD INTO THE WORLD.
"MY MOTHER HOLDS ME TO HER BLISTERED CHEST, KISSES ME ONCE WITH WHAT REMAINS OF HER MOUTH, AND DIES.
"MY FATHER CANNOT FIGHT WHEN THE K.G.B. TAKES ME AWAY. HIS FINGERS ARE FUSED SHUT, AND BOTH LEGS SHATTERED TO PASTE.
"WITHIN THREE HOURS OF MY BIRTH, I AM TAKEN WITH THE OTHER SURVIVORS AND DRAFTED INTO THE K.G.B. SPECIAL INTERESTS PROGRAM."


"THOSE OF US WHO LIVE ARE STUDIED FOR *YEARS*. RADIATION FROM THE METEORS HAS *MUTATED* US. IT IS ATTRIBUTED AS THE SOLE CAUSE OF OUR SURVIVAL.
"I LEARN THE WORDS *METAGENE. GENETIC ANOMALY.* THE BEAR HOPES TO CREATE A NEW BREED OF SOLDIERS FROM MY FLESH.
"I AM NOT A SOLDIER. I AM *SICK.* I AM *WEAK* AND I CRY WHEN STUCK WITH NEEDLES. I BELIEVE I AM AN ALIEN FROM ANOTHER PLANET.

"THEY DO NOT DISSUADE ME OF THIS FANTASY. WE WRITE LETTERS TO MY FATHER TO *CALM* ME. I WANT VERY MUCH TO GET WELL AND *PLEASE* THE BEAR.
"THEY DISCOVER I GET EVEN *WEAKER* IN *SUNLIGHT*, SO THEY SEARCH FOR A WAVE-LENGTH OF SOLAR RADIATION THAT WILL KEEP ME HEALTHY
"HAPPENSTANCE BRINGS THEM TO THE FREQUENCY OF A *RED SUN*. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVEN YEARS, MY BODY DOES NOT HURT, I DESTROY MANY PIECES OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT THROUGH SPASMS OF HAPPINESS, AND CANNOT WAIT TO TELL FATHER..

"I AM *STRONG*
"I BECOME A STRONG SOLDIER. I TRAIN WITH THE BEST. THE *KGBEAST*, EVEN I LEARN TO HATE THE AMERICANS AND TO FORGET THAT I EVER HAD A MOTHER
"FATHER DOES NOT WRITE BACK AS FREQUENTLY "


"BUT I KNOW HE IS PROUD. THEY TELL ME SO.
"PROUD THAT I WILL SERVE THE BEAR AND CARVE A NAME FOR MYSELF IN THE GREAT ROLLS OF SOVIET SUPREMACY--
"WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENS. THE EAGLE BEARS A SON...
"A SON LIKE ME... BUT NOT LIKE ME. I UNDERSTAND THE LIES OF MY YOUTH. I KNOW I AM HUMAN, BUT YOU ARE NOT...
"YOU THRIVE IN THE LIGHT AND THE GLORY OF A NATION OF EXCESS, YET I CANNOT WATCH THE SUNSET WITHOUT LOSING STRENGTH IN MY KNEES.
"I KNOW I AM MEANT TO KILL YOU, BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHY.
"SO I RESEARCH. EXPLORE. SEEK THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION BURNING IN MY MIND. WHY DO I HATE HIM SO...?
"WHEN WE ARE SO MUCH ALIKE?
"I APPROACH MY SUPERIORS FOR ANSWERS. THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND MY SENSE OF CONNECTION TO YOU NOR MY NEED TO KNOW. I MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND.
"I AM EVOLVING. ASCENDING...
"WITH MY EVOLUTION COMES ENLIGHTENMENT. FOR I NOW KNOW THE TRUTH."


"I KNOW MY FATHER HAS BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS. I KNOW THAT I HAVE BEEN RAISED ON LIES...
"AND I KNOW WHY I HATE YOU SO DEEPLY.
"YOU ARE MY OPPOSITE NUMBER IN EVERY WAY. WHERE YOU CAME TO EARTH FOR SALVATION, I FELL TO EARTH TO FIND STRIFE.
"YOU GAINED PARENTS. I LOST PARENTS. YOU WERE BORN TO LOVE. I KNOW ONLY HATE.
"IMPRISONED FOR THE SLAUGHTER OF MY SUPERIORS, I PLEDGE MY LIFE TO TWO GOALS. I WILL TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES WHOSE AMBITION AND PARANOIA CREATED THE CONDITIONS OF MY WRETCHED BIRTH...
"AND I WILL DEVOUR MY OPPOSITE NUMBER. TO BECOME COMPLETE. IN SOLITUDE... I AM REWARDED FOR MY COMMITMENT TO HATRED.
"IN VISIONS AND MEDITATIONS, AN ANGER FINDS ME. A VICIOUS WHISPER FROM THE VAST NOTHING SPEAKS TO ME DURING FEVERS. I FEAR I MIGHT LOSE MY MIND.
"BUT IT KNOWS YOU INTIMATELY. THE NAMES OF YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER... THE HISTORY OF KRYPTON. THE DARKNESS BECOMES A TEACHER, FOR IN ME IT FINDS A REPOSITORY FOR ITS HATE...
"HATRED FOR THE MAN WHO HAD BIRTHED IT, BY HIS SINGLE SIN... MURDER.
"THE BLACKNESS CALLS ITSELF ZOD.
"AND SO, THEN, DO I."

EVERY MANEUVER SINCE THAT DAY HAS BEEN TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS OF *THIS MOMENT*. ADOPTING THE BANNER OF A LONG FORGOTTEN NATION TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE AND ALLOW ACCESS TO YOUR *PRESIDENT*...
THE ATTACKS ON YOUR PERSON, THE CREATION OF *KANCER*, ALL *EXPERIMENTS* TO DEVELOP THE TECHNOLOGY THAT WOULD BOND YOUR D.N.A. TO THE LATENT METAGENE IN HUMANITY--
CUTTING MY OWN FACE ON THE *GENETIC LEVEL* SO YOU WOULD *TRUST ME*, NARCISSISTIC *IDIOT!*
ALL TO FORCE THIS SINGLE EFFORT-- CONVERSION OF THE SUN FROM YELLOW TO *RED*. THE FINAL REVERSAL OF FORTUNE.
NOW I CAN ROAM *FREE*. *STRONG*.
WHILE YOU WILL SUFFER AGONY AND *FIRE* AS YOUR *OWN BODY IMPRISONS YOU* UNDER A *RED SUN*.
NNNNGH

"HELPLESS. CRIPPLED. DEFEATED.
"THE AGE OF THE EAGLE IS OVER. YOUR TIME ON EARTH IS DONE...
"...AND WITHIN DAYS...
"...ALL WILL KNEEL BEFORE ZOD."
WHERE ARE YOU? WHERE?
TO BE CONTINUED...